

CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing elastic storage of layered video data stored in a storage apparatus, comprising the steps of:
 - reading stored enhancement layer video data out of said storage apparatus;
 - at least partially decoding the enhancement layer video data;
 - 5 attenuating the decoded enhancement layer video data;
 - encoding the attenuated enhancement layer video data;
 - storing the encoded attenuated video data in said storage apparatus.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the attenuation reduces the bit-rate
10 of the video data.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein DCT coefficients of the decoded enhancement layer video data are attenuated.
- 15 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the DCT coefficients are attenuated by a predetermined constant value.
5. The method according to claim 3, wherein the DCT coefficients are attenuated in a non-linear manner.
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6. The method according to claim 4, wherein each DCT coefficient is multiplied by a weighting factor in a weighting matrix.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein higher frequency coefficients are
25 more attenuated than low frequency coefficients.
8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the weighted DCT coefficients are quantized by dividing the weighted DCT coefficients by a quantization factor prior to being re-encoded.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 removing a DC-offset value from a DC DCT coefficient of the decoded
enhancement layer video data prior to the attenuation step; and
5 adding the DC-offset value back into the DC DCT coefficient of the attenuated
enhancement layer video data before the encoding step.
10. An apparatus for providing elastic storage of layered video data stored in a
storage apparatus, comprising:
10 means for reading stored enhancement layer video data out of said storage
apparatus;
 decoding means for at least partially decoding the enhancement layer video
data;
 attenuation means for attenuating the decoded enhancement layer video data;
15 encoding means for encoding the attenuated enhancement layer video data;
 means for storing the encoded attenuated video data in said storage apparatus.
11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the attenuation reduces the bit-
rate of the video data.
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12. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein DCT coefficients of the decoded
enhancement layer video data are attenuated.
13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the DCT coefficients are
25 attenuated by a predetermined constant value.
14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the DCT coefficients are
attenuated in a non-linear manner.
- 30 15. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:
 weighting means for multiplying each coefficient by a weighting factor in a
weighting matrix.

16. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein higher frequency coefficients are more attenuated than low frequency coefficients.
17. The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:
5 a quantizer for quantizing the weighted DCT coefficients by dividing the weighted DCT coefficients by a quantization factor prior to being re-encoded.
18. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:
means for removing a DC-offset value from a DC DCT coefficient of the
10 decoded enhancement layer video data prior to the attenuation step; and
means for adding the DC-offset value back into the DC DCT coefficient of the attenuated enhancement layer video data before the encoding step.